

SENATE RESOLUTION 25

By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Reverend Dr. William R. "Bill" Bouknight on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. William R. "Bill" Bouknight is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for more than forty years in the Church; and

WHEREAS, he will be taking a much deserved retirement from the 6,300-member Christ United Methodist Church in Memphis, where he has served as a Senior Minister since June of 1994; and

WHEREAS, organized in 1955, Christ United Methodist Church averages about 2,400 people in worship and oversees a budget of \$8.5 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, born June 20, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina, the son of Reverend W.R., Jr., and Lillian Ranson Bouknight, Rev. Bill Bouknight was reared in Methodist parsonages all over South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, he received his master's degree in Theology from Duke Divinity School and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and a Sacred Theology Masters from Yale Divinity School; he received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Wofford College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouknight served Fair Lawn-St. Luke Charge in Columbia, South Carolina, from 1966 to 1971, and then St. Luke United Methodist Church in Hartsville, South Carolina, from 1971 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, he served as Senior Pastor for Trenholm Road United Methodist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, from 1979 to 1991, and then for First United Methodist Church in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, from 1991 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouknight is an active and important part of his profession participating in a variety of worthy committees and boards, including chair of the Church Evangelism Covenant of South Carolina United Methodist Conference, an elected delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1988, and in 1992, and Episcopal election committee chair directing the campaign for Bishop M.L. Meadors, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Bill Bouknight attended the World Methodist Conference at Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, in 1996, and at Brighton, in England, in 2001, and was elected to the World Methodist Council and the executive committee of the Council from 1996 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, he has lent his time and numerous talents to a number of notable organizations, including serving as a trustee for Spartanburg Methodist College, Wofford College, and Rust College, and a member of the founding committee and first board chairman of the Columbia, South Carolina, Free Medical Clinic; he was also a member of the Leadership Memphis Class of 1997; and

WHEREAS, from 1967 to 1994, he served as a chaplain in the Army National Guard of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Bill Bouknight is the recipient of a number of awards and honors for his character and his achievements, including Denman Evangelism Award at the 1991 South Carolina Conference, the 1990 Public Citizen of the Year by the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Colonel O.P. Taylor Humanitarian Award in 1989, the 1978 Citizen of the Year from Hartsfield, South Carolina, and the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club in 1978; he received the Bert Ferguson Commitment to Community Award in 1999, and the Distinguished Evangelist of the United Methodist Church for 2002 by the Foundation for Evangelism; and

WHEREAS, a respected writer and orator, Dr. Bouknight has had his sermons published in several books and periodicals, and participates in speaking engagements throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, his collection of one-minute inspirational messages, *Perceptions*, was published in 1996; *The Authoritative Word: Preaching Truth in a Skeptical Age* was published in 2001, and *Should Christians Always Oppose War, and 11 Other Questions Believers Ask* was published in June of 2006; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, the Rev. Dr. Bouknight is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Gloria Pardee Bouknight; they are the proud parents of Brad, a Wofford College graduate and resident of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Bouknight exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and a true gentleman of the South; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ and has led the Confessing Movement within the United Methodist Church; he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of all those who have been fortunate to know him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to the Reverend Dr. William “Bill” Bouknight our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement as we pay tribute to his honorable career of service, and we wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.